

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01134 161926Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6256
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1134

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA PROPOSAL

REF: A) STATE 221150, B) USUN 3001

1. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I HAD AN HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL AT NOON TODAY. LEWEN DELIVERED PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S MESSAGE AND HE AND I ORALLY COVERED ALL EIGHT TALKING POINTS IN REFTTEL B. AMBASSADOR LEWEN'S REPORT OF THE MEETING IS BEING SENT SEPTTEL. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING AND MY COMMENTS.

2. PRESIDENT MACHEL WAS NON-COMMITAL WHETHER HE WOULD SUPPORT OUR REQUEST FOR EARLY DESIGNATION OF A UN REPRESENTATIVE.

I DID NOT EXPECT HE WOULD GET OUT IN FRONT AND VOLUNTEER HIS SUPPORT BEFORE HE HAS HAD TIME TO COORDINATE HIS REACTION WITH THAT OF PRESIDENT NYERERE AND THE OTHER FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT VOICE ANY OBJECT TO EARLY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 01134 161926Z

END I BELIEVE WE WILL HAVE HIS SUPPORT.

3. MACHEL CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS BEEN TALKING TO NKOMO AND MUGABE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. HE SAID THAT HE TOLD NKOMO AND MUGABE THAT HE THINKS OUR PROPOSAL CONTAINS ALL THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR A SETTLEMENT, BUT THAT HE DID NOT TRY TO TELL THEM HOW THEY SHOULD RESPOND TO THE PROPOSAL.

4. THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS AND MACHEL IS CLEAR. IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY NKOMO AND MUGABE ON SEPTEMBER 15, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. MACHEL ON THE OTHER HAND THINKS A UN FORCE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. IN FACT, THIS FEATURE IS FOR HIM ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE PROPOSAL. HE FORESEES SQUABBLING AND FIGHTING BREAKING OUT BETWEEN CONTENDING NATIONALISTS, AND FEARS THAT WITHOUT A NEUTRAL FORCE TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE FIGHTING MAY GET OUT OF HAND.

5. MACHEL STRONGLY URGES US TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSION AT ONCE WITH THE NATIONALISTS TO TRY TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OVER SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF OUR PROSOSAL. HE ALSO URGES US TO PROVIDE THE NATIONALISTS WITH A MEANINGFUL ROLE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. AS IT IS NOW, HE NOTED, THEY HAVE LITTLE TO DO. HE SUGGESTED THAT AT A MINIMUM THEY HAVE SOME ADVISORY RESPONSIBILITY. THIS HE SAID WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE UK RESIDENT COMMISSIONER TO OBTAIN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF SOME OF THE DIFFICULT MEASURES THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WILL HAVE TO TAKE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

6. WITHOUT SOME MEANINGFUL ROLE FOR THE NATIONALISTS DURING THE TRANSITION, WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE EVIDENCE THAT PROGRESS TO INDEPENDENCE IS IN EARNEST AND IRREVOCABLE, MACHEL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 01134 161926Z

SAID IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO LIFT SANCTIONS AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

7. ONCE AGAIN, MACHEL SPOKE POSITIVELY AND APPROVINGLY OF THE PROPOSAL. AT ONE POINT HE SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT HE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL IN ALL ITS ESSENTIALS, AS HE SAID DID ALL THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. HOWEVER, HE SEES THE PROPOSAL AS A NEGOTIABLE DOCUMENT AND NO DOUBT EXPECTS WE WILL BE PREPARED TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS TO SATISFY THE NATIONALISTS.

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